



## Student Visas and U.S. Higher Education

A U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad Facebook Chat, held on July 13, 2012 from  
02:00pm – 04:00pm

### Facebook Chat Transcript

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**Student:** What is the criterion to do M. Tech (automobile) in the U.S. and how much does it cost?

**US Vice Consul:** Great question, we have several resources you can use to get more info regarding colleges offering automobile courses and costs involved. I would start with [educationusa.state.gov](http://educationusa.state.gov)

**Student:** I was rejected twice in Spring-2012. My profile: B.Tech-75%, GRE-292. What are the chances of me getting a visa in my next attempt and please suggest what the changes I need to make are.

**US Vice Consul:** Obviously, I cannot tell you what to do, but before a student should apply again after a refusal: he/she should think about any improvements they can make. All of the officers have the same training and we apply the same standards. So my suggestion would be to make any improvements you can.

**Student:** When I applied for my student visa I was given a pink slip and got F-1 visa stamped for two years i.e., till December 2012 according to the previous I-20. However, I changed my university and according to the new I-20 my course completion date is until June 2014. Can I go for a visa extension to Canada in November this year? In case my visa extension is refused will I still be able to enter the United States because I have it till December 2012. If it is not possible could you suggest the best possible way to get my visa extension done?

**US Vice Consul:** You can go to any consulate and apply for the visa extension. Your stay in the US is determined by your I-94, you will need to either get an extension from USCIS or get a visa to enter to the US if your I-94 is expiring. These are the options you have.

**Student:** My friend is 23years old, from middle class family, with no immovable assets, nor FDs, he does not even own a house. He completed his graduation this year from Open University, and has done diploma courses in Computers. He has a family that consists of his father, mother & 3 younger sisters. He is the eldest amongst the siblings. His father is a teacher. His wish & aim is to study and gain work experience with a U.S. organization and then he want to setup his own organization in Hyderabad, India, but is quiet because of his financial issues.

**US Vice Consul:** I'm not sure about your question, but the financial situation of a student is a factor for the visa interview. The student must have adequate funding for their education in order to get a visa. Hope that helps. Many universities offer scholarships for good students, so that could be an option as well.

**Student:** I applied for a visa to study at Chicago State University. I was rejected thrice and so did a few friends who applied for the same university and who have good profiles. I also contacted some of my seniors who told me that there were no visas issued since last semester (Spring '12). Please let me know if there is any problem with the University. If there is, please list such universities so that we will be aware. I finalized this university, because when I attended a seminar conducted by David Kanis, Dean of Chicago State University & Rohan Attele, Department Chair. They gave useful information regarding programs they offer, good opportunities to International Students in placing them in CPT programs etc., and when I contacted my seniors they too responded in the same way. And now after my last rejection I am applying for the same university, with an improved GRE score & 6 Months of job experience. Please suggest if I should go ahead with the same university. My primary purpose of travelling is to pursue Masters and complete my Higher Education.

**US Vice Consul:** *We don't have any such list of universities that we don't issue visas too; we do not make decisions based on university choice. As officers, we look at the entire candidate and the university choice is just once factor out of many that will make a determination of whether a student is qualified or not.*

**Student:** My visa was refused today when I took the interview at 8.30am. When I asked the officer for the reason, he told me that I want to go to the U.S. to work and not to study, but I am not interested in working, how can I prove that I am not a potential immigrant? I am going to schedule another appointment in this month on 23/ 07/2012 and the visa officer may ask me why I chose Dallas Baptist. Is this university not a good one or not reputed, please let me know about this university and any advice or suggestions to crack the visa interview.

**US Vice Consul:** *There is no magic formula to "crack" the visa interview. University choice is one of many factors for a student to convince the officer that he/she is a legitimate student. When picking a university make sure you have done adequate research and make sure that you have chosen it for the appropriate reasons.*

**Student:** I have a doubt regarding the visa process. The main purpose of GRE is to assess the student's ability to get admission into a university. If the university has accepted the score and has given the the student admission, then why is he getting rejected at the visa interview because of GRE score? One of my friends got his visa rejected twice; reason given for the first time is that he needs some work experience to do his Masters! The second time reason is low GRE score (his GRE score is 1000). May I know why? And does he have the chances of getting approved in the third attempt?

**US Vice Consul:** The GRE score alone is not a factor, but as I mentioned earlier, it is one of many factors that determine whether someone is a legitimate student. There are over 20 million students graduating in India every year. Many of them want to go to the U.S., unfortunately not every student is qualified.

**Student:** What if a student has been denied an extension before completion of his Masters?

**US Vice Consul:** By USCIS or at the visa interview? **Student:** At the Visa Interview. Let's suppose a student has visa until August 2012, he changed university and came back for extension. And will complete his masters by 2013. What if his extension is denied? **US Vice Consul:** *Then he cannot complete the masters.*

**Student:** I have got an admission for this Fall 2012 to pursue my Masters in Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M Kingsville University. But I have been rejected a visa at Chennai, stating that I might be a potential immigrant. Being my first ever interview I was nervous when I stood in front of the Visa Officer and fumbled a few times. I've passed out in June 2010, with Academics 65%. After my undergraduate I wanted to do my Masters so i was preparing for GRE and TOEFL and gave my tests during 2011. At the same time I did not want to waste my time so I started working in a Social Organization full time since June 2010. By the time I got all my score cards it was October 2011. My GRE is 1130 and my TOEFL score is 85. Also, I was giving home tuitions for my juniors and friends and was helping them out in their Engineering Drawing subject during this time. My Financial documents are all strong having more than double the amount required for pursuing my Masters. What possible changes can I make in my profile and re-apply for my visa and get through? How can I convince the Officer that I am just going there to Study and will come back? How best can I answer in the short time? Does changing the place have any effect? Thank you.

**US Vice Consul:** *Unfortunately, I cannot give you any specifics. An applicant should apply again if they feel that something has improved in their background for an officer to be convinced of their intent to study in the U.S.*

**Student:** Actually one of my friends is attending a visa interview next week. He did his Masters in Canada. Would the visa officer look into both his Bachelors and Masters scores?

**US Vice Consul:** *Both.* **Student:** Thank you. :) Does he have the chances of getting approved in the third attempt? **US Vice Consul:** *That would depend on the interview.*

**Student:** I already applied for visa interview but rejected once and I lost the original I20. Can I apply to visa interview to the same college's I-20 (photocopy)?

**US Vice Consul:** *You need the original I-20. You can request it from the University.*

**Student:** Thanks for F-1 Fridays and your time, Sir. Since my university's Fall semester in 2012, it will dispatch my I-20 a little late. But I heard applying for a U.S. visa late will reduce the chances of me getting a visa. Is this true? I paid my SEVIS fee last year so shall I once again pay the SEVIS fee or can I come with the old SEVIS for my visa interview sir?

**US Vice Consul:** *As long as your SEVIS is still valid, you can come with the same SEVIS ID, but if your university has changed, you will need an updated one.*

**Student:** I was rejected for F-1 visa twice for this Fall. My first interview: The VO asked me to improve my profile. Second Attempt: He just asked me only two questions. 1st question: Why did you select this university? My answer: I used program locators and websites like petersons.com & educationusa and contacted seniors in the U.S. and selected the university depending upon my area of interest. 2nd question: What's your %? My answer: its 67% with 2 backlogs. He said, "Sorry, I cannot issue you a visa," and gave me 214(b) marking that I did not show sufficient ties to my home country and that I do not have sufficient funds. But he did not ask any questions regarding this and rejected me. I am very

interested in the course that the university is offering me. Do I need to change the university? Can I attend the interview again? If so what are the changes I need to make? I was rejected two times for two different reasons!

**US Vice Consul:** *Unfortunately I cannot give specific advice to each student, please read answers below to a very similar question.* **Student:** Thank you for your reply. But my doubt is if I need to change the university? What was the VO's intention in asking me why I selected this university and simply rejecting me for the answer I gave? Can I apply again with the same university or should I change it? **US Vice Consul:** That is up to you, but the university choice is a factor in convincing the officer that you are a bona-fide student.

**Student:** Do you provide wheelchair assistance at the Consulate, as my mother is having an appointment for Visa and she cannot walk for a long distance?

**US Vice Consul:** *Yes sir, the consulate is wheelchair accessible and we have wheelchairs. We will be more than happy to accommodate her.*

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